

Appln. No.: 09/475,881
Response. Dated August 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action dated May 13, 2003

Remarks/Arguments

I Claims 1-8 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 are independent. Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. No claims have been cancelled. No claims have been amended.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly unpatentable over Barns-Slavin, U.S. Patent No. 5,995,950 (hereinafter Barns-Slavin).

Independent Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"[a] set of load planning tables for use in a system for managing shipping parcels, the set of load planning tables comprising...
b) a load table, for storing records of attributes associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field and a load identifier field;
c) a stop table, for storing records of attributes associated with a stop, which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a stop identifier field, and a drop bill number field;
d) a shipment header table, for storing records of attributes associated with a shipment, which is in turn optionally associated with a stop, which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a bill number field that serves as a shipment identifier and optionally relates the record to a record in the stop table via the drop bill number field in records of the stop table, an origin identifier field, and a destination identifier field; and
e) a cost table, for storing records of attributes associated with a component cost of a load, which is in turn associated with a load, which is in turn associated with a group, each record having a group identifier field, a load identifier field, a field indicating a cost type, and a field indicating a cost amount."

Applicants submit that Barns-Slavin does not teach or suggest the elements of Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claim 1.

Independent Claim 5 is similar in scope to Claim 1, and the same arguments provided with respect to Claim 1 apply to Clam 5. Applicants submit that Claim 5 is allowable.

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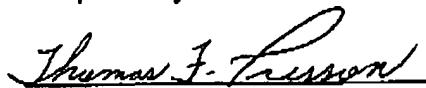
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The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' attorney may be reached by telephone at (203) 924-3845. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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